



State Representative Themis Klarides

Dear Friends,

It continues to be an honor and a pleasure to serve as your state representative for the 114th District.

This Legislative Report contains information about what the legislature did this session to address the state budget, and focuses on a number of issues important to the residents of Woodbridge, Orange and Derby.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the 2005 session, please contact my office at any time.

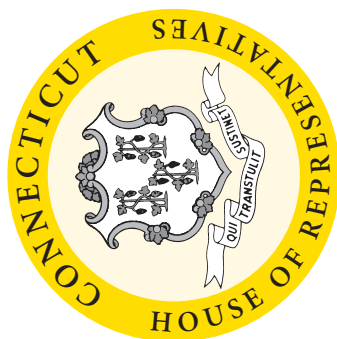
Sincerely,

Themis Klarides



Rep. Klarides speaks during a press conference at the state capitol.

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State Representative
THEMIS KLARIDES
Proudly Serving the 114th District
Woodbridge ★ Orange ★ Derby



Representative Themis Klarides
Room 4200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

TELEPHONE:
(800) 842-1423

E-MAIL:
themis.klarides@housegop.state.ct.us

Please visit our website: www.housegop.state.ct.us

2005 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative
THEMIS KLARIDES
Proudly Serving the 114th District
Woodbridge ★ Orange ★ Derby



Rep. Klarides speaks on the floor of the House during the 2005 Legislative Session.

PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS

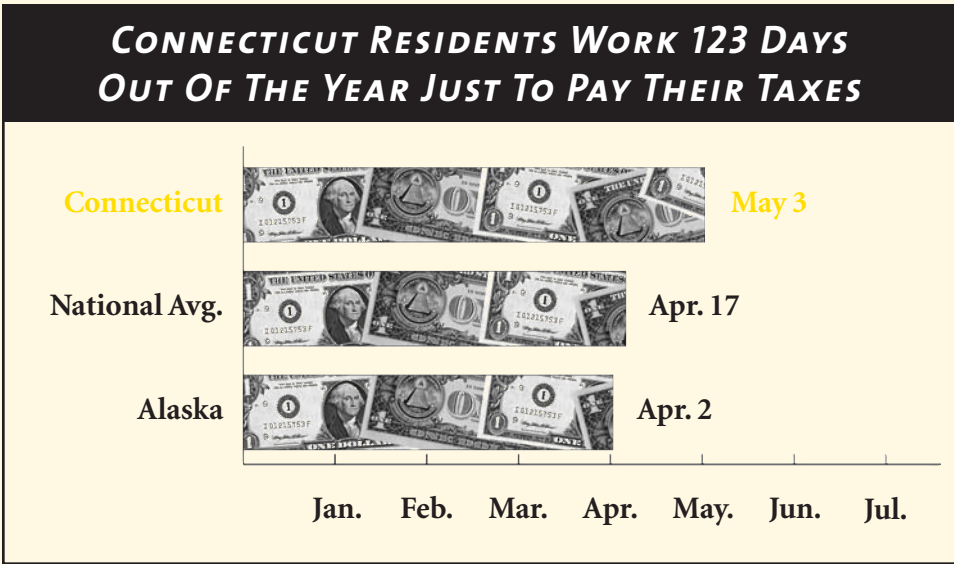
Voting for Fiscal Responsibility

The budget that was offered by the majority this year included heavy increases in taxes and spending, as well as a violation of the state spending cap and the squandering of the state surplus. For these reasons, I voted against the budget package.

The budget increases spending 8.9%, cuts absolutely no areas of spending, and exceeds and violates the publicly established Constitutional spending cap by \$110 million. It spends \$650 million of the \$700 million surplus, while including \$738 million in new taxes. It is inappropriate to increase taxes to that degree when we have a \$700 million surplus. This is particularly true when you consider that we are in the highest taxed state per capita in the entire country.

Eminent Domain

The issue of the use of eminent domain came to the fore during the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision concerning New London. The court ruled that Connecticut's eminent domain laws are constitutional but stressed that the state could amend them. It is clear that action should be taken as quickly as possible considering the sweep and impact of this court decision. Unfortunately, the legislative majority defeated an amendment aimed at limiting eminent domain. I joined many of my colleagues in pressing for a special session of the legislature to address this matter and to preserve the private property rights of Connecticut residents.



Reforming the Legislature

Both the state Senate and House took up and passed campaign reform packages, however agreement could not be reached between the two chambers concerning how state elections are funded and paid for. Governor Rell has assembled a task force to hammer out the details, and has convened a special session of the legislature to act on its plan.

This year House Republicans proposed negotiating the state budget in the open instead of behind closed doors, giving 72-hour public notice before voting on any new law and requiring a public hearing on any tax increase. These proposals were voted down by the majority.

Fighting for Fair School Funding

The distribution of education dollars continues to be lopsided. Many of my colleagues and I will continue the fight for fair funding of public education. Currently the state school aid formula now sends \$9,000 per pupil to students in the cities, while suburban children receive state funding as low as \$100.

Transportation

The Governor’s proposal to implement a \$1.3 billion comprehensive transportation restructuring for the state was approved by the legislature this year, which is aimed at improving state highways and interstates, as well as upgrading public transportation.

Cell Phone & Pocket Bike Bans

I also co-sponsored a measure which was passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor which bans the use of hand-held cell phones while driving. I also worked on the successful passage of legislation that prohibits the use of pocket bikes on all public roads, and expands the required use of booster seats for children.

Graduated Licensing

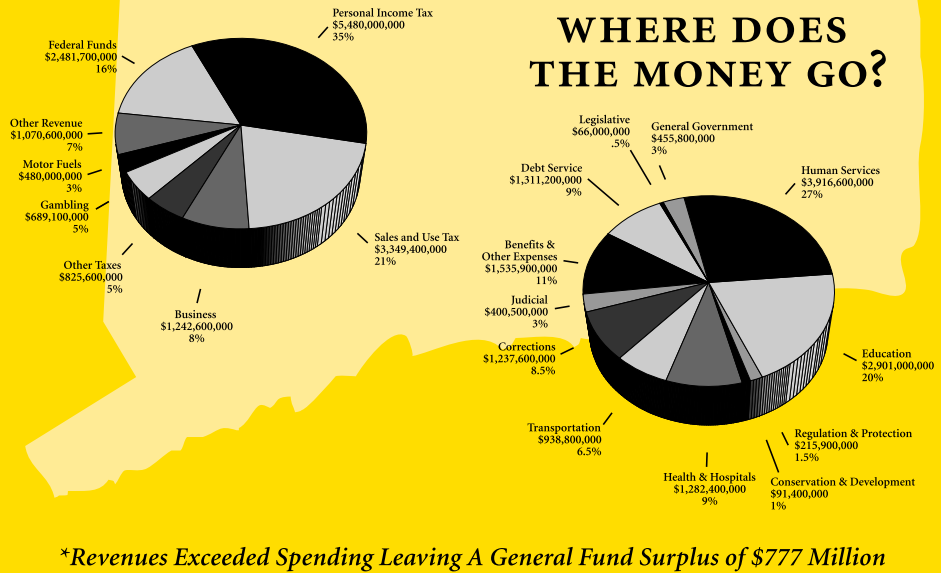
The legislature also enacted legislation I co-sponsored that requires 16-and 17-year-olds learning to drive under learner’s permits to have a minimum of twenty instead of eight hours of behind-the-wheel instruction before they qualify for driver’s licenses. It also prohibits licensed drivers of this age from driving between the hours of 12:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. unless they are travelling because of employment, school or religious activities, or medical necessity.



Rep. Klarides and other legislators with Governor M. Jodi Rell after she signed new Booster Seat Legislation.

BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2005
THE 2005 GENERAL FUND AND
THE SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND
TOGETHER SPEND \$14.4 BILLION

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



For Seniors and Veterans

This year the legislature passed measures that provide discounted in-state tuition to military personnel stationed in Connecticut. We also provided a variety of additional benefits for members of the Connecticut National Guard. Money was allocated to implement the federal Medicare Part D prescription drug program, and the state’s Commission on Aging was moved from the Department of Social Services to the legislative branch.

Identity Theft

Due to the increased incidence of identity theft the legislature passed a bill allowing consumers to place a freeze on their credit report and requiring a credit bureau to place the freeze within five days. The credit freeze prohibits a creditor from giving information to any third party without the creditor’s permission.

Stem Cell Research & Infertility Insurance

The legislature passed a measure providing a total of \$100 million over ten years for embryonic stem cell research. Of these funds, \$20 million came from the 2005 budget surplus. Over the next eight years, funds from the Tobacco Settlement Fund will go toward the Stem Cell Research Fund. The new law also prohibits the cloning of a human being. I also supported and helped obtain the passage of legislation that requires insurance carriers to cover costs associated with treating infertility in couples wishing to have children.